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Romulus High School Principal Don Foley and assistant principals Linda Poirier and Doug Hoffman wait at the school outdoor gazebo area

## Principals tackle new transition

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

It's going to be a big transition at Romulus High School, not only for students, but also for the staff.

That because two new top administrators – Principal Don Foley and new Assistant Principal Linda Poirier – will join Doug Hoffman at the school.

Although the administrators, who are charged with making sure the transition from typical semesters into trimesters for the first time is smooth, both are excited about their new posts.

"We've both been at the high school a long time," said Foley, a 38-year veteran of Romulus Public Schools.

"Job number one right now is to make sure the transition into trimesters goes as planned for the students and the staff," he said. "This is going to be a big shift for us – but we're prepared."

Others may see the move into trimesters as an obstacle, but not Poirier, who was hired by Romulus schools in 1984.

"I prefer not to look at these things as obstacles; I would call them challenges," she said.

Behind the scenes, another transition will move forward: That of two veteran educators

### A long history

Foley and Poirier both have a long history at the school, which was part of the reason the district slotted them into new positions.

An assistant principal at Romulus High for eight years, Foley started working for the district at the former middle school on Olive Street, where he taught math

and industrial art and design.

After the Olive Street facility was closed, Foley moved onto the present middle school building. He had served several stints as an assistant principal before deciding to jump on board with an administrative job at the high school.

Foley also joined the coaching staff, and has led baseball, basketball and volleyball teams. He said that in schools, there are quite a few parallels between teaching and coaching.

"When you're a teacher or a principal, you're a coach for the students," he said. "You're there to make sure they do their best."

He said there's never been a time since he ceased teaching that he hasn't missed the classroom.

"I've always missed the camaraderie of the staff and students," he said.

Poirier – who has spent nearly her entire career in the classroom at Romulus High School teaching Spanish – said she expects she will greatly miss the classroom.

"I think that's going to be hard, even though I was ready for a new challenge," she said. "I'm really going to miss the direct contact with students."

### New roles

Both Foley and Poirier will be taking on new duties that will be radically different.

As principal, Foley will be taking a more active role in setting the tone at the high school among the staff, working with administrators on Grant Road regarding curriculum, and devising better ways to communicate information to students.

"I would say the biggest change

is moving away from dealing with problems – like discipline – into curriculum," he said.

That aspect Foley leaves behind is what Poirier is picking up, along with Hoffman.

Poirier said she's relying on advice from Foley.

"My goal is to be caring and consistent," she said.

Romulus Schools Superintendent Carl Weiss said both Foley and Poirier's experience would be an asset at the school.

"Don has a level knowledge about the students and staff that is unparalleled," he said. "And Linda has the background and knowledge we needed in an assistant principal. Both are highly capable, and will give us the leadership we need at the school."

### Three isn't a crowd

Romulus High School leadership consists of a principal and two assistant principals.

Doug Hoffman, who has been an assistant principal at the school for several years, said at a pre-school year in-service that the trio of educators would fit together fine.

"The transition is not going to be in the people but in the trimesters," he said. "We've really been together for many years."

Foley said this would likely be his last position as an educator.

"I will retire from this position," he said.

Both said that though there are challenges ahead, they are extremely happy to serve students in a new role.

"We're both excited," said Poirier. "We're excited to get started."

## Events

FROM PAGE 1

tive displays including flight simulators, Rock Band, Dance Revolution, Dancing Heads and much more. Prizes including a plane load of gas in gas cards, a trip to Disney World, several round trip airline tickets and various other giveaways.

Prior to the public open house, a private event for the friends and family of all of airport employees and those of the contractors and vendors who designed, built or otherwise contributed to the planning, design and construction of the new facility will take place.

Robinson said the men and

women who worked to make the new terminal a reality should be the first to see it.

"Everyone in Metro Detroit will be proud of the new North Terminal, but the thousands of men and women who planned, designed and built this beautiful new facility will have this special opportunity to show-off their hard work to friends and family," he said.

Under construction for more than a year, the improved North Terminal will house several carriers serving national and international passengers, including Air Canada, American Airlines, AirTran Airways, Frontier Airlines, Lufthansa German Airlines, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Spirit Airlines, United Airlines, US Airways, USA 3000,

and charter airlines.

Northwest Airlines, AeroMexico, Air France, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, will remain in the McNamara Terminal.

The North Terminal redevelopment project has benefited the local economy by creating 3,200 local construction jobs. Upon completion of the new facility, the existing Smith and Berry terminals will be decommissioned.

For tickets and information about the charity preview, visit [www.airportpreview.com](http://www.airportpreview.com).

Although the open house event is free, reservations are recommended.

For more information, or to make a reservation, visit [www.airportopenhouse.com](http://www.airportopenhouse.com).

## Police

FROM PAGE 1

time since it happened," she said. "I wonder if a family member of the police officers who were in the store were going to go there, if they would call them to tell them not to go."

"There was an elderly woman that was in the store, and she was just shaking," she added.

Rodeghier also said she had the misfortune of seeing Thomas' body after he had been shot by police.

"I wasn't sure that he was dead, I thought he was just cuffed on the ground," she said.

Lambert said he was sorry Rodeghier went through the trauma of the incident, but said officers

acted properly in light of the circumstances.

"I apologize to you on behalf of the Romulus Police Department.... but I also believe it was the skill of the officers that kept (innocent) people from getting hurt," he said.

Rodeghier said she's not sure that's an acceptable response, and said she believes the alleged criminals shouldn't have been allowed to pick the spot where the incident played out.

### Operations cross lines

Romulus Deputy Police Chief Michael St. Andre said it's not uncommon for police officers – especially undercover narcotics investigators – to conduct activities in other cities if the suspects make such a request.

"It's not uncommon at all," he

said. "Several other departments have been in Romulus."

Both Lambert and St. Andre mentioned that Westland police had fired shots in a public place in Romulus, but the circumstances remained unclear.

"We didn't say a thing about it after it happened," Lambert said.

St. Andre did not immediately return calls seeking comment Tuesday.

Calls made to Wild's office were not immediately returned Tuesday.

Lambert said that he's like to see everyone involved put the case behind them.

"We need to move on from this," he said.

—Staff Writer Meghan Chatham contributed to this report.

## Run touts student fitness

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

The Romulus Bulldogs are hoping to promote health, and giving, in one shot.

Keith Brothers, a teacher at Romulus Middle School, is organizing a 1.5-mile run and an additional 5K run on Oct. 18 to encourage the importance of exercise among young people, and help some area families who are struggling for the holidays.

"The run fits in with some of the material that we're studying this year in health class," said Brothers.

First, the 1.5 mile run will take place beginning at Romulus Middle School, and later in the afternoon, the 5K will begin. The entry fee will be \$8 for the 1.5 mile run, \$12 for the 5K prior to Oct. 4, and \$20 after Oct. 4.

All pre-registrants will be guaranteed a Romulus Bulldogs T-shirt.

Proceeds will help families in the immediate area, Brothers said.

"We're still working on how that will work, but we will provide food baskets either at Thanksgiving or at Christmas with the money," he said.

Awards will also be given for the top three elementary, middle and high school students.

In addition to raising money for area families, there is another purpose for the run: to get teens in their formative years to embrace the importance of physical activity in an increasingly sedentary world.

According to the American Council on Exercise, about 38 percent of teenagers are not getting enough exercise, which can inhibit growth, learning and cause them to gain weight.

Brothers said the school is trying to keep participation in the run among parents, students, staff and other interested parties within the Romulus school system, but that it will not turn away anyone who wishes to walk or run on Oct. 18.

Prior registration is required.

To obtain a registration form, or for more information, e-mail Bothers at [brotherk@imail.romulus.k12.mi.us](mailto:brotherk@imail.romulus.k12.mi.us).

## Shelter

FROM PAGE 1

Wadsworth, but we all know we need a new shelter."

A drive to build a new animal shelter has been under way for about four years.

The current facility on Goddard Road does not have enough capacity to hold all the abandoned and stray cats and dogs in the city, and has fewer places to store food, medicine, and supplies.

Wadsworth asked the city council to designate a bank account so he could raise money to pay for the construction of a new shelter, and since then, numerous fundraisers have taken place to benefit that end.

Estimates indicate that a new shelter would cost \$250,000 to build. Wadsworth said that funds from individuals and businesses, as well as in-kind promises for labor, means that work can get started without necessarily having all of the money in hand.

To date, \$130,000 in cash has been donated, and about \$70,000 in in-kind services from local businesses has been pledged.

The Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA) is also overseeing a process to design a new shelter, and is working with the design firm Ghafari & Associates.

The new shelter will be located on a city-owned parcel of land on Northline Road, near the Department of Public Works Building. The new plan calls for many new amenities, including an adoption area and an improved storage area for supplies.

But for the foreseeable future, animals will be housed at the old shelter, which is badly in need of a facelift, said Wadsworth.

"I commend (Forbush) for volunteering to help," he said.

## Calendar of events

### Author visits library

As part of the Romulus Public Library book discussion rotation, an author will join the discussion of his book.

Harry Bryce, the writer of *Land of the Morning Calm*, will make a guest appearance at the library on Sept. 8.

Bryce will join the members of the book club to discuss his inspiration for the book.

The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

### Festival bingo aids shelter

Animals of all stripes are hoping residents will turn out in droves for the annual Pumpkin Festival Bingo fundraiser.

Bingo will take place from 5 p.m.-midnight on Friday Sept. 19, from 1 p.m.-midnight on Saturday, Sept. 20 and from 1-7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21.

One hundred percent of the proceeds earned at the bingo tournament will benefit the four-year-old effort to construct a new animal shelter on a parcel of city-owned land near the Department of Public Works building.

More than \$130,000 has been collected through local fundraisers like the bingo tournament. The total cost of a new shelter is about \$250,000.

For more information, or to volunteer, call Councilman William Wadsworth at (734) 941-0616 or Joe Ozog at (734) 941-3466.

### The Second Monday Book Club

The Romulus Public Library still has dates and times for the Monday night book club.

Book discussions are free and open to all residents age 18 and up. Participants need not register in advance.

The library will have copies of the books, or staff members will assist readers in getting inter-library loan copy.

The remaining books to be analyzed include: *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon, which will be discussed Oct. 13; and *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean, which will be discussed Nov. 10.

Refreshments will be served.

The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

### Caregiver support groups planned

Adult Well Being Services will host caregiver support groups at the September Days Senior Center from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

The monthly meetings provide support, information and encouragement to caregivers of a spouse, parent or others. The group will help family members deal with their emotions, learn about resources and meet others who are going through similar experiences.

The services are free, however, participants have the opportunity to make a donation to share in the cost of services. No one will be refused service if they are not able to donate.

Support groups will also take place in Canton, Plymouth, Dearborn Heights, Allen Park, Detroit and other surrounding areas. For more information, call (313) 359-0736.

— Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.



# Crowning achievment

## Miss Wayne County to be chosen during pageant next week

Meghan Chatham  
Staff Writer

Next weekend, Churchill High School in Livonia will teem with activity as five area women compete for the title of Miss Wayne County.

An official Miss America preliminary competition, the 18th Annual Miss Wayne County competition is for more than just the title and a crown. The young woman who wins it will also earn scholarship money and a chance to represent the region in the Miss Michigan program in June. The program will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 6 at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh Road in Livonia.

The 2007 Miss Wayne County, Ashlee Baracy of Westland, recently went on to win the Miss Michigan competition and is currently preparing for the Miss America program.

Women eager to follow in her footsteps will include Lauren Allen of Inkster, Christina Hastie of Dearborn, Nicole Blaszczyk of Novi, Kiara Crockett of Saginaw, and Dayna Dunne of Livonia. The competition is open to contestants who live, work, or

go to school in the region. Blaszczyk and Crockett are eligible for the program because they attend Wayne State University.

"After Ashlee won, I did get a lot of phone calls and inquiries," said Sheila Sigro, executive director of the Miss Wayne County Organization, adding that after learning how extensive the program criteria and obligations are, most individuals opted not to pursue the matter.

*The judges are looking for the next Miss Michigan and Miss America.*

Sheila Sigro

**Executive Director  
of the Miss Wayne County  
Organization**

The formula by which the candidates are judged is the same across the board. Candidates must compete in interview (25 percent), lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit (15 percent), talent (35 percent), evening wear (20 percent), and on-stage question (5 percent) to determine their score.

However, Sigro said that the judges aren't necessarily going to award the title to the person with the most talent or to the individual who looks best in a swimsuit because they

are looking for something more intangible—a "wow factor" that will cause a particular candidate to catch and keep a judge's eye.

"The judges are looking for the next Miss Michigan and Miss America," she said.

As a result, she said, the title usually goes to someone "who has the total package."



This year, the Miss Wayne County program will feature a mixture of veteran contestants and new faces as (left to right) Lauren Allen, Kiara Crockett, Dayne Dunne, Christina Hastie, and Nicole Blaszczyk take the stage. In 2007, Blaszczyk was the First Runner Up and Hastie the Second Runner Up behind Miss Wayne County 2007 Ashlee Baracy.

Photo courtesy of the Miss Wayne County program.

Although the top prize is available to only one contender, scholarship money is distributed so that all of the competitors receive something for their efforts. Prizes range from \$700 for the title winner to \$100.

Tickets to the program are available at the door for \$15. Program books will be available on-site for \$1 each.

Five former Miss Wayne County contenders, including Baracy, have risen through the ranks of the pageants to ultimately compete in the Miss America program.

For more information on the Miss Wayne County program, visit [www.misswayneco.com](http://www.misswayneco.com).



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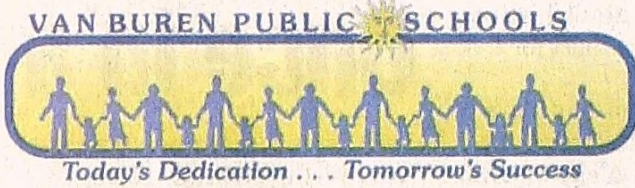
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\* Students from outside the District must qualify for entry into the Gifted and Talented program by meeting the same criteria that is applied to residents of the Van Buren Public Schools District.

For more infomation, contact Kathy at (734) 697-6381, ext. 280 or visit [www.vanburenschools.net](http://www.vanburenschools.net)



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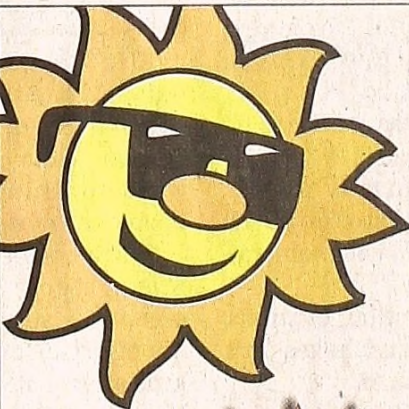
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# OPINION

## Not exactly a warm welcome in Wayne

"I'm not going anywhere. These guys motivate me even more," said Steve Johnson. "I'm not going to stop going to council meetings."

It was Friday afternoon and Johnson, a candidate for Wayne County Commission, was recounting an incident that took place the night before.

As he tells it, he extended a hand in greeting to Kevin McNamara—his opponent in his run for the 11th District—and Councilwoman Pam Dobrowolski as they passed by his booth.

From there, the accounts differ: He and another person in the booth with him say she became very rude and obnoxious; she pointed her finger at him, raised her voice, and called him names as his 10-year-old and 7-year-old sons watched in wide-eyed disbelief.

She said it was no big deal. She approached him to tell him he was rude at the council meeting from the previous Tuesday and he was the one who overreacted. When asked about it Tuesday, she said she thought he was a 'crazy person' with 'anger management issues.'

In the end, nearby police officers were summoned to keep the peace and point each party their separate ways.

Both agree the altercation was a continuation of the Wayne City Council meeting. Dobrowolski said she was defending the city that she thought Johnson trashed during his comments that night. Johnson said he thought the council was offended and berated him for bringing fresh ideas to the table about how to bring development into the downtown area.

Shortly after the incident, there was an attempt to have Johnson removed from the festival, even though he had every right to be there since he filled out an application and paid the fee.

So what really happened? Only those who were there and who witnessed it will know for sure. It's most likely that both sides are embarrassed by the whole thing; Dobrowolski, a county employee who was McNamara's campaign manager, no doubt wants to downplay the issue—as do members of the city administration.

Johnson raised his voice during the incident, too. He said he did so because of the proximity of his children.

The bottom line, though, is that there was some kind of confrontation that escalated to the point that the police were involved. That doesn't typically happen when people are discussing differing political views. There's a police report on it—Johnson requested one, although he declined to file a complaint.

The fact that the police were involved between a sitting councilwoman and a candidate for office is embarrassing enough. Public officials—or those seeking to become public officials—need to hold themselves to a higher standard. They can't be getting into shouting matches in the middle of a public park during a city function that is designed to be a family-friendly festival.

At the very least, Dobrowolski needs to apologize. She's been around long enough to know better. If the exchange was as heated—and profane—as some say it was and if it did, indeed, bring a little boy to tears, she should do more than that. She should step down. To ignore it though, to not get in

See **Welcome**, page 5

## Let the healing begin?

The next Conference of Western Wayne meeting is shaping up to be a doozy.

The meetings bring together representatives from communities throughout western Wayne County to work on regional issues, pass along information that impacts everyone and fosters a cooperative atmosphere with which to attack statewide issues.

We've got people from Northville Township irritated with their neighbors in Livonia and the City of Northville for their role—or lack thereof—in the recently defeated annexation issue, respectively.

Now we've got officials from Westland and Romulus sniping over a drug-related shooting in Westland that started as an undercover sting initiated by Romulus police.

We're glad we don't have to make up the seating chart for that meeting.

This organization has been a positive thing in the past. As a lobby, it wields a lot of clout. As an information source, it has proved invaluable to each of its member communities. New ideas have been brought up there that have benefited each municipality.

Now it might have to take on a new role, that of a healer. There are too many difficulties facing the state in general and these local municipalities in particular to allow contentious feelings to linger, let alone flourish. For the sake of progress everyone should put aside any hurt feelings.

This is a time for cooperation, not to be holding grudges.



## Once in a while, the good guys win

I saw a something rare at the Northville Township Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday. Smiles all around.

Township officials took a moment to thank everyone who had pitched in during their recent fight against the proposed annexation of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital property to the City of Livonia.

It was a pretty classy thing to do and a classy way to do it.

Fred Shadko, Rhonda Webber, Laurie Marrs and Carol Poenisch all received plaques commemorating their efforts.

There were standing ovations, plenty of hearty handshakes and, again, smiles all around.

Someone—I think it was Township Supervisor Mark Abbo—said the few weeks leading up to the August primary was among the greatest civics lesson he'd ever had.

He's right. It's also an inspiring story about life, too, and the ability of 'the little guy' to slay whatever Goliath he or she may be facing.

Someone—I think it was Township Supervisor Mark Abbo—said the few weeks leading up to the August primary was among the greatest civics lesson he'd ever had.

This is a story about three ordinary people who, outspent and overmatched, managed to get across a clear message that what was happening was wrong. And people responded.

The accolades didn't stop there. State Rep. Marc Corriveau received a strong ovation, too, for his efforts. Corriveau sponsored legislation that was approved in the House of Representatives but stalled in the Republican-controlled Michigan Senate by Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop in part, I believe, because of the amount of campaign contributions kicked in to Republican coffers by those attempting to steal the land and develop it according to their

desires rather than township specifications.

"I'm usually handing these out," said Corriveau with a wry smile. He and Abbo—once opponents for the seat—gave each other a hearty man hug, clapping each other's shoulders with enough force that the sound of it almost defeated the horrible acoustics in the meeting room.

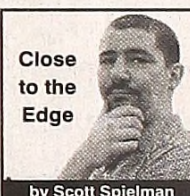
State Sen. Bruce Patterson was mentioned, too. He took perhaps the greatest risk when he voted against his party colleagues in an attempt to get the legislation moving. He has since fallen out of party favor and been stripped of some committee assignments—all for trying to do the right thing.

What does that say about Lansing?

That's a column for another day, perhaps. For now, we'd like to extend our own congratulations to those who pitched in on the effort—for there were many more that worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

We'd also like to urge the Legislature, now that this issue has been settled, to take up the Corriveau legislation and approve it. It's a no-brainer when you think about it. The majority of people in Michigan live in charter townships. Townships are being developed more and more and they deserve the same rights and protections as the city or village counterparts. This is not about one plot of land or a squabbling municipality and developer. It's a broader issue that needs to be solved.

There's no reason for it not to be. The people have already spoken. Are legislators in Lansing that deaf?



## Letters

### Literature angers resident

To the editor;  
I was incensed to see an attack on State Rep. Marc Corriveau in the Wayne Eagle.

We're not interested in dirty politics in Wayne. We choose to elect—or not elect—people based on their merits. Here are some of Corriveau's: he works very hard for our community; he holds monthly office hours so we can talk with him about the things that are important to our community; he's helping to increase funding for our local schools, and much more.

It's important that we weigh Corriveau's character and work ethic against someone who's more interested in spreading rumors

and half truths.

Shirley DePoole,  
Wayne

### Candidate expresses appreciation

To the editor;  
I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the residents of Van Buren Township for their vote of confidence during the August primary election.

This success in the primary allows me to be on the ballot for the November General election.

This difficult process was made less daunting with the dependable devotion and help from my husband, Steve, and my sisters, Frances and Dianne. With each

step of the way, I had help from friends, family, neighbors and residents that signed my petition form the very beginning to the poll workers that endured such a hot and humid Election Day.

If you offered me words of encouragement, if you attended my fundraiser, if you put my sign in your yard, if you helped stuff envelopes, if you smiled and said good luck...I thank you because every single bit helped.

The voters of Van Buren Township have spoken and I will continue to listen with devotion and hard work.

My heartfelt congratulations to the other successful candidates

See **Letters**, page 5

# JOURNAL

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Letters

FROM PAGE 4

that worked so hard going door-to-door; putting up yard signs, attending township meetings and event, being involved in their community's concerns, trying to make a difference and having the courage and diligence to make a bid for office.

Congratulations for a job well done.

Denise Partridge,  
Van Buren Township Trustee Candidate

Voters, workers praised

To the editor,

There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist, or to accept the responsibility for changing them.

Our grass roots organization, Citizens For Northville, accepted the responsibility and worked to support the township trustees and supervisor in their efforts to ensure the psychiatric hospital development maintained the standards and integrity of our Northville community. Since success is more a function of consistent common sense than it is of genius, we set forth to challenge the antiquated annexation laws.

When that didn't work, we divided into two focused groups, Citizens To Stop Annexation and Taxpayers For Responsible Development, and began a rigorous campaign for the "NO" Annexation vote. Thankfully, the majority of Livonia voters realized the word listen contains the same letters as silent. They listened to the erroneous "facts" and came to the polls in record numbers to defeat the annexation of Northville's land. We thank the Livonia voters who chose not to be silent.

The people who worked on our campaign are too numerous to mention. They approached the task with passion and demonstrated when you plan purposefully, proceed positively, and pursue persistently, you will achieve your goal!

I applaud our township officials for doing battle with REIS and fighting for the correct plans for the development. I applaud our elected officials, Sen. Bruce Patterson and Rep. Marc Corriveau who demonstrated their belief in the old adage, "The world is composed of givers and takers...the takers may eat better but the givers sleep better."

Thank you for your courage and support. I again challenge Senate Leader Mike Bishop to become a giver and listen to his constituents. Their vote has said it loud and

clear!

While we have accomplished much and proven nothing is impossible, we still have one major obstacle to overcome. These antiquated annexation laws must be changed. We must remain strong in our efforts to achieve this next challenge. I believe we will all be better citizens when the voting records of our legislators are followed as carefully as the scores of football games. You can begin this journey with me at the polls in November. Remember, change and change for the better are often two different things.

A final note to the Livonia City Council... honest criticism is hard to take..especially when it comes from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger.

Laurie D. Marrs  
Northville Township

Event organizers express thanks

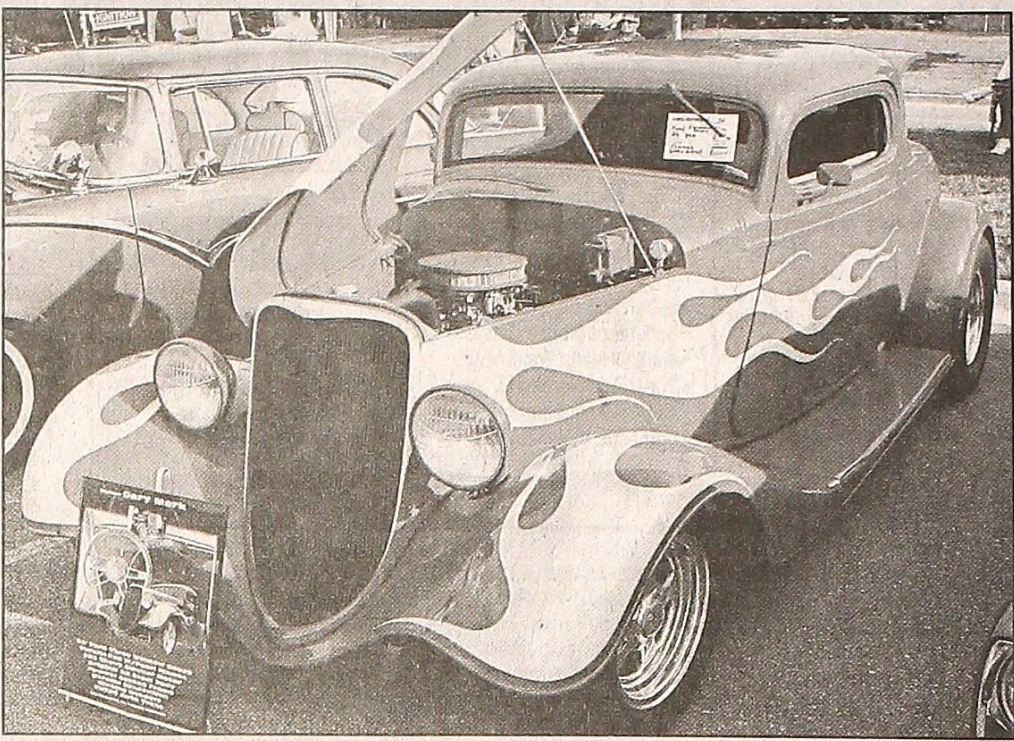
To the editor,

On behalf of the Fred C. Fischer Library, thanks so much for all the good promotion for the Belleville Area Garden Walk. Thanks to you and others, it was extremely successful. The weather couldn't have been better and the gardeners couldn't have been more gracious. Attendance was up 60 percent over last year and of course that translates into more money raised for the library.

We would also like to thank our sponsors (which basically paid for our expenses), the Friends of the Library, and all the volunteers that assisted along the way. They are critical to this event's success. We hope that you enjoyed shopping our Garden Marketplace and thank them for their willingness to take a chance on this new but growing event. Lastly, to the gardeners that opened their homes for this fundraiser, there is no way to adequately thank you. Your gifts of time and effort (not to mention thousands of gallons of water!) are truly a labor of love.

We will never be as big as the Strawberry Festival, but the Garden Walk is a wonderful way to showcase our community in a beautiful and positive way. Again, many thanks to all those supporting this community event.

The Garden Walk Planning Committee:  
Sandy Askeew  
Claire Cabrera  
Jackie Deal  
Deb Green  
Elaine Gutierrez  
Claudette Serpetti  
Faye Traskos



Show offs

Classic cars of all makes and models headed to Westland on Aug. 13 as the Westland Lions Club hosted the annual 'Cruisin' with Culvers' benefit car show outside Culver's Restaurant. The popular event was designed to help the club raise money for area service organizations, including Leader Dogs for the Blind. The effort will continue as the club gears up for its 27th Annual Golf Outing, which will take place on Sept. 27 at the Gateway Golf Club in Romulus. Photos by Ken Garner



Welcome

FROM PAGE 4

front of this appearance of impropriety, shows a callousness entirely unbecoming of a

public official.

The response from the rest of the city council will be just as interesting to watch. This incident provided quite a bit of conversation during the Wheelfest. To ignore it shows that it is acceptable behavior and we certainly don't find it acceptable, at all.

CLASSIFIED

- |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| 01. Obituaries<br>02. In Memoriam<br>03. Cards of Thanks<br>04. Monuments<br>& Cemetery Plots<br>05. Personals/Announcements<br>06. Legal Notices<br>07. Attorneys<br>08. Entertainment<br>09. Lost & Found<br>10. Coming Events<br>30. Help Wanted | 31. Help Wanted Sales<br>32. Help Wanted Drivers<br>33. Child Care<br>34. Specialized Services<br>35. Situations Wanted<br>40. Business Opportunity<br>42. Health and Fitness<br>43. Money to Loan<br>44. Music/Art Lessons<br>45. Adult Care<br>46. Private Schools/Instruction<br>47. Riding/Horses/Stables | 50. Pets & Supplies<br>54. Rummage Sales<br>55. Estate Sales<br>56. Flea Markets<br>57. Antiques<br>58. Garage and Yard Sales<br>59. Auctions<br>60. Misc. Sales<br>61. Misc. Items<br>62. Building Supplies<br>63. Business and<br>Office Equipment | 64. Lawn & Garden Supplies<br>65. Tree Service<br>66. Landscape / Nurseries<br>67. Garden Plant / Supplies<br>68. Garden / Produce<br>70. Masonry / Brickwork<br>72. Cleaning Services<br>73. Musical Merchandise<br>74. Sporting Goods<br>75. Boats / Accessories<br>76. Remodeling & Renovations<br>77. Recreation Vehicles | 78. Hunting / Fishing<br>82. Wanted to Buy<br>87. Room for Rent<br>88. Duplexes for Rent<br>89. Apartments for Rent<br>90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent<br>92. Business Places for Rent<br>93. Banquet Halls<br>94. Farm Land for Rent<br>95. Real Estate<br>96. Houses for Rent<br>97. Cottages for Rent | 98. Mobile Homes for Rent<br>99. Flats for Rent<br>100. Will Share<br>101. Wanted to Rent<br>102. Storage<br>103. Business Property for Sale<br>104. Farms & Acreage for Sale<br>105. Mobile Homes for Sale<br>106. Houses for Sale<br>107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale<br>108. Lake and Resort<br>109. Income Property | 110. Lots for Sale<br>111. Out of State Property<br>112. Commercial Lease<br>113. Real Estate Wanted<br>114. Auto Accessories<br>115. Autos for Sale<br>116. Antique & Classic Cars<br>117. Trucks & Vans for Sale<br>118. Freebies<br>119. Auto Repairs<br>120. Motorcycles<br>121. Autos Wanted |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|

1. Obituaries

Be it known to all men and/or interested parties, the Inkster Housing Commission give proper and due notice that any and all possessions belonging to:  
William Nunn  
1900 Inkster Rd.  
Inkster, MI 48141

Remaining in unit 4559 who passed away Aug 10, 2008 will become property of the Inkster Housing Commission, unless otherwise properly claimed and removed in five (5) days.



CARTER, Rodney Rickey died August 18, 2008. He was born August 4, 1958. Rickey leaves behind many precious memories for all:  
His loving wife, Laura Johnson-Carter; stepfather, James Bradley; father in-law, Quincy Johnson, Sr.; sisters: Kim Pulcher, Elisa Simpson; brothers, Jermaine Bradley, Charles (Rhonda) Bradley, Michael Hister; sisters-in-law, Robin Johnson, Chris Johnson, and Mary Carter; brother-in-law, Quincy (Antoinette) Johnson, and a niece, nephews, family and friends. Final arrangements

were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI. Fee for pictures



MCDANIEL, Richard James. In addition to his father, he was preceeded in death by his wife Sarita. Richard was called home on August 16, 2008. He was born on April 14, 1950. He is survived by his mother - Jerutha; son- Chriskaume; daughter- Kiauna; brothers-Timothy, Everett and Jeremiah Jr.; nephews - Stacy and Akil; nieces, Samantha and Shakira and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends.  
Interment was at Grandlawn Cemetery in Redford, MI. Rev. Nora Shumake officiated. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster MI

**34. Specialized Services**

**BRATCHER ELECTRIC**  
COMPLETE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SINCE 1956

Remodeling • Service • City Repairs

**734-722-0037**  
35728 Van Born • Wayne

30. Help Wanted

Help Wanted Substitute Bus Drivers for Van Buren Public Schools, Belleville. \$11.50 per hour Call 734-699-5100 for more info.

31. Sales Help Wanted

ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

The Journal Newspapers has immediate openings for sales representatives to serve our circulation area. Candidates must have reliable transportation and a willing attitude. Liberal commission. Newspaper or media sales experience preferred, but will train the right candidate. Please send resume detailing experience and availability to:

Susan Willett  
Journal Newspaper Group  
P.O. Box 339  
Wayne, MI 48184

34. Specialized Services

Repair Any Damage siding, alum. trim, gutters, roofing, porches, rails, steps, overhang, and decks. New Construction additions, garages, porches, vinyl siding, alum. trim, doors and windows. Licensed & insured Deal direct w/ Carpenter and save. Call Dave at 313-595-4396

50. Pets & Supplies

Male & Female 100% Certified Purebred Chihuahuas for sale call Mike @734-377-9656

**BOLD PRINT ATTRACTS MORE READERS!**

121. Autos Wanted

**JUNK CARS WANTED**  
"ONE OF THE LARGEST STOCKS IN THE AREA"

**E&M AUTO PARTS**

MON-FRI 8:30-5:30 SAT 8:30-4:00

• ENGINES • TRANSMISSIONS  
• RADIATORS  
• AIR CONDITIONING  
• BODY PARTS • AUTO GLASS  
• USED WHEELS • BRAKE PARTS  
• FENDERS • HOODS

**DOMESTIC & FOREIGN**  
"CARS FROM THE 60'S TO NOW"  
**42800 Yost Rd.**  
(At Intersection of Van Born & Melton Taylor in Canton)  
**734-397-2200**  
**248-474-4425**

58. Garage and Yard Sales

Belleville (Sumpter) 49875 Willow Rd. at Great Lakes Roses 1 mi. E. of Rawsonville Sat & Sun 9 to 6 No early sales Rain or shine Moving overseas-all household furniture, adult clothing, kitchen & gardening items must go!

59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that on 9/17/08 at 3:00 PM, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

The Storroom Self Storage 40600 Michigan Ave Canton, MI

Space #228-Marissa Gray: Household goods, misc. goods  
Space #301-Chris Kates:Household goods, misc. goods  
Space #314-Walter Claydon:Household goods, misc. goods

Space #322-Michael McNulty:Household goods, misc goods  
Space #421B-Russell Redmon:Household goods,misc goods  
Space #435-Paul Barone: Household goods, misc goods  
Space #502A-Jeffrey Mattson:Household goods,misc goods  
Space #534:Todd Liberty: Household goods, misc goods  
Space #607-Ellen Kates:Household goods, misc goods  
Space #747 - Carlos Chavez:Household goods,Recreational items, misc goods  
Space #807-Melinda Early-Pitts:Household goods, misc goods  
Space #811-Sandra Yarbrough: misc goods  
Space #830-Irene Keith:Household goods,misc goods  
Space #849-Russell Redmon:Household goods, recreational items, misc goods  
Space #929-Charles Marshall:Household goods, misc goods  
Space #1003-James Lakimera:Household goods,misc goods  
Space #1024-Ali Sonuor:Household goods,recreational items, misc goods  
Space #1218-Lesley Moore:Misc good, tools

Notice of Public Sale On Sep 16, 2008 at 1:00 PM, U-Store-It 401, 28266 Ecorse Road, Romulus, MI 48174, will sell the following units to highest bidder by cash. U-Store-It reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All items in storage units contain household items unless otherwise mentioned.

E6-Akeya H. Gregory  
E23-Michael A. Webb  
E30-Charisma Harris

61. Misc. Items

**NEW QUEEN PILLOWTOP**  
Mattress & Box Set \$125  
New in Plastic Can Deliver **734-326-2744**

**\$200 KING PILLOWTOP**  
3-piece Mattress & Split-box Set  
NEW in Bag Can Deliver **734-721-3799**

New Orthopedic Queen Plus Top Mattress & Box Set \$150  
New in plastic Can deliver **734-796-0610**

Worship Directory

**Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church**  
DISTRICT ELDER LUKE A. MCLENDON, PASTOR

Sunday { Sunday Morning Prayer (8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.)  
Christian Education (9:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)  
Morning Worship Service (11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) }

**\*\*Nursery Room Available for Children 4 Years of Age and Under\*\***

29124 Etou Street • Westland, MI 48186 • 734-326-3833  
www.christtempleafof.com



# Business and Service Directory

<b>Auto Salvage</b> <b>A-1 Auto Salvage &amp; Scrap</b> We Buy Scrap Metal & Junk Cars Ferrous & Non-Ferrous Cert. State Truck Scale Pick-up or Drop-off 2574 State Ypsilanti, MI (734) 483-0901	<b>Counseling Services</b> <b>Motivational Empowerment Counseling Center &amp; Assoc.</b> • Substance Abuse Treatment • Substance Abuse Classes • Mental Health Treatment • DLAD Assessment • Anger Management • Domestic Violence	<b>Handyman</b>  On time. Done right. <b>734-451-9888</b> America's #1 Handyman Small to medium size projects and "Honey do items" On <b>WOW</b> cable channel 14	<b>Moving</b> <b>TWO MEN AND A TRUCK</b> "Movers Who Care." Boxes, Packaging Supplies and Packing Services for your Home or Business Move Free Estimates On Time Arrival  <b>734-722-6683</b> www.twomen.com	<b>Tree Service</b>  Tree Service <b>734-788-7474</b> • Tree Trimming • Tree Removal • Stump Removal • Chipping • Licensed/Insured • Free Estimates • Senior discounts • Reasonable Rates • Safe and Professional OVER 12 YRS. EXP. TOM KNIGHT	<b>Window Cleaning</b> <b>In-Home Window Cleaning</b> Window, Gutter & Carpet Cleaning www.cleanwindows.biz <b>248-623-5858</b>	<b>Call</b> <b>734-467-1900</b> to place your classified ad.
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<b>62. Building Materials</b> Build Your Own Steel Building Buy what YOU WANT!! Factory Direct to Site Can Erect, Cheap Freight www.scg-grp.com #047 313-598-7613	<b>LET'S MAKE A DEAL! WESTLAND-NORWAYNE</b> Call for list of clean, renovated 2 & 3 BR duplexes. Section 8 welcome City Inspected Lead Paint safe. Some pets permitted. Flexible move-in cost. No application fee. Most credit accepted Professional local full-time management and service. Office at 2365 S. Venoy. Norplex Associates 734-722-6444 EHO	<b>WAYNE, MI</b> Quiet 1 & 2 BRS. Well maintained Heat/water/A/C inc. No pets Great for singles & retirees \$490-\$600/month Call a manager @ 734-729-2108 or 734-718-9521 or owner @ 734-718-3562	<b>WESTLAND-NORWAYNE</b> 2 BR Ranch, Section 8 welcome, City inspected, flexible move-in cost, recently renovated, large fenced yard, shed, lead paint safe, some pets ok. Norplex Associates 734-722-6444 EHO	<b>101. Wanted To Rent</b> <b>WANTED</b> House to Rent w/option to buy in Inkster and Dearborn Hts area. Call 313-278-5925	<b>105. Mobile Homes for Sale</b> <b>CANTON</b> Owner financed 2&3 BR Mobile Homes as low as \$100/mon. plus lot rental Call Jim: 313-277-1907	<b>121. Autos Wanted</b> Advance H&W Towing Top \$ for junk vehicles (CASH) Free Pick-up 7 Days a Week 734-223-5581
<b>87. Rooms For Rent</b> AAA Willow Acres Motel, low daily and weekly rates. Refrigerator, microwave, Cable TV. Call 734-721-1220 Tel-96 Inn 313-535-4100 Fairlane in Novi 248-347-9999 Days Inn/Sunrise Motel 734-427-1300	Spacious 3-bedroom Duplex for rent near Palmer and Merriman Fenced yard \$625/mon. plus sec. Call 248-703-1825	<b>WESTLAND</b> 1 BDR, \$440/month. Security dep.req. Venoy and Grand Traverse. 248-563-7122	<b>ABSOLUTE FDIC AUCTION</b> <b>FDIC</b> 82 MICHIGAN PROPERTIES Located within Detroit and Surrounding Areas Single & multi-family residences • Commercial & investment properties • Held at Rock Financial Showplace [Tuesday, September 30 at 2:00 PM (ET)] J.P. KING WWW.JPKING.COM 800.558.5464 <small>Steven L. Roemer, Real Estate Broker, (517) 927-6436</small>	<b>Losing a Loved One to Drugs or Alcohol?</b> We have the answer! • Unique and Effective Approach to Recovery • 28-to-45-day Intensive Residential Program • Scenic Private Lake Setting • Choose from 3 Program Enhancements: Cognitive/Holistic - Self-Help - Faith-Based Body - Mind - Spirit • Low-Cost/Financing Available Start Living Life Again. Call: A Forever Recovery 1-800-380-6812 www.stopyouraddiction.com		
<b>ROOM FOR RENT</b> Wayne \$85/weekly All utilities included. Call 734-721-0232.	<b>89. Apartments For Rent</b> <b>WAYNE</b> Near Wayne Road Quiet and clean 1 BR Heat and water inc. Ideal for singles and retirees. No Pets \$450 moves you in with approved credit Sec. 8 welcome 313-247-2075	<b>INKSTER</b> 28375 Glenwood 3BR 2.5BA Bungalow Finished bsmt. 2-car garage Freshly painted New carpet throughout \$975/mon. plus sec. 734-306-6158	<b>Cost-Effective Statewide Coverage</b>  <b>Michigan Press Association</b> 827 N. Washington Ave. Lansing, MI 48906-5199 Phone: 517.372.2424 Fax: 517.372.2429 www.michiganpress.org bobbie@michiganpress.org	<b>Funeral DIRECTORY</b> <b>Harry J. Will</b> Funeral Homes 34567 Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184 (734) 721-5600 Tom Lynch • Manager Also in Livonia & Redford Jim Henley • Director		
<b>88. Duplexes For Rent</b> 3Bedroom Duplex for rent Freshly painted interior nice kitchen, fenced yard, walking distance to schools. Reasonable Rent. call # 734-729-0641 or #313-743-8430	<b>WAYNE</b> Large, 2 BDR Apts. Newer building 3200 Niagara \$675/month plus util. Call 313-205-3021	<b>Inkster</b> Clean 2 bed, with very nice kitchen, and bath, clean carpet, Call 734-729-0641 or 313-743-8430	<b>Local Man Travels Backwards Through Cafeteria</b> BEXAR COUNTY- Tom W., after using Thera-Gesic® on a sore left shoulder, was able on three consecutive days to go through the line ordering while only looking back at the food. When asked why, he painlessly replied: "None of your dang business!" Go painlessly with Thera-Gesic® 	<b>UHT FUNERAL HOME</b> Harold Rediske Jr., Director Harold Rediske II, Robert J. Gilbert, 35400 Glenwood Road Westland, MI 48186 • (734) 721-8555 www.uhtfuneralhome.com 24 HOUR SERVICE • FAX 278-7314  <b>The Penn Funeral Home</b> "The Funeral Home You Can Believe In" JAMES H. PENN & SON 3015 S. Inkster Rd. Inkster, MI 48141 313-278-6300		

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**35540 Michigan Ave.**  
**Wayne, MI 48184**  
 Fax: (734) 729-1840 or Call Susan at (734) 467-1900 ext. 227

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**NEW! Pirates Pub**  
**NEW! Giant Enchanted Turtle**  
**NEW! Site Expansion, "The Aberdare Valley"**  
**NEW! Patron Joust**  
**NEW! Major Events Every Weekend**

**Theme Weekends!**  
**Arabian Knights**  
 August 16 & 17  
**Highland Fling**  
 August 23 & 24  
**Buccaneer Beer Fest**  
 August 30, 31 & September 1  
**Wine, Romance & Song**  
 September 6 & 7  
**Wonders of the World**  
 September 13 & 14  
**Shamrocks & Shenanigans**  
 September 20 & 21  
**Sweet Endings**  
 September 27 & 28

**2008 Michigan Renaissance Festival**

**Food Drive!**  
 First 3 Weekends  
 Bring 4 Non-Perishable Food Items and Receive 1 Free Adult Admission with the Purchase of 1 Regularly Priced Adult Admission! Proceeds Benefit Lighthouse of Oakland County!

Weekends & Labor Day  
 August 16 - September 28, 2008  
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 10 am - 7 pm | Rain or Shine!  
 (800) 601-4848 | www.michrenfest.com

Discount Tickets Available at Participating







CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 19, 2008

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Clair, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Public Safety Director Champagne, DPW Director Knepper, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director Wright, Deputy Planning and Economic Development Director Swallow, Senior Director Combs, Senior Coordinator Jordan, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-two (22).

Supervisor King requested a moment of silence be held in honor of David Price, a former employee of the Township, who recently past away.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Payne moved, Rochowiak seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comments on expanding Industrial Development District #17. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Director Kelley for an explanation. Director Kelley stated this public hearing is for expanding Industrial Development District #17. The second public hearing is for the twelve-year Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate more commonly known as a tax abatement. The location is Ricardo Drive, Old Tyler Road east of Haggerty Road and west of Ricardo’s World Headquarters. Ricardo, Inc. is an established business in Van Buren Township and the Van Buren Township Ricardo site is competing with a site in Germany for this project. Supervisor King stated this first public hearing is on the expansion of Industrial Development District #17 and the second public hearing speaks to the purpose of the expansion. Resolution 2008-23 sets forth the legal description for the real property and further statutory requirements of the Industrial Development District expansion and is a prerequisite to considering the tax abatement.

There were no comments from Board members or the audience.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Hart moved, Clair seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Budd moved, Jahr seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comments on request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Ricardo, Inc. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to the Vice President of Ricardo, Inc. for a review of the expansion project. The applicant’s representative stated Ricardo, Inc. is an international consulting company with world wide locations including the World Headquarters located in Van Buren Township. Ricardo has a wide range of customers including Caterpillar, the Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway and Transportation Safety Authority. The proposed project is for the advanced chassis dynamometer facility; also know as a rolling road for testing vehicles that could achieve 76 miles per gallon. Ricardo is heavily involved in hybrid vehicles and Ricardo’s representative showed examples of the building and site plan. The representative further detailed the proposed project stating air coming out the test facility will be cleaner then the air coming in. The applicant stated Ricardo received Michigan Economic Development (MED) state tax abatement today for this proposed facility. The local tax abatement request has to be in place to work with the (MED) state tax abatement and will help this location to be chosen as both sites will compete with about a \$14.6 million construction costs. The new facility will be a low energy use building. Supervisor King reviewed some of the Ricardo, Inc. Tax Abatement Application that is scored on a point system as follows: this is a new project for the company, expanding from within Van Buren Township, the cost of proposed project or improvements (\$14.6 million), 25 highly skilled new jobs created and Ricardo, Inc. leases the land on which it plans to locate. The score was 91.5 qualifying for a twelve-year tax abatement. Supervisor King reviewed the abated amount of monies for Ricardo as follows: without the abatement Ricardo would pay approximately \$30,400 per year in Township taxes; with the abatement Ricardo would pay approximately \$15,200 per year in Township taxes. In year one with the expansion and abatement Ricardo with all its properties would pay approximately \$178,000 in total taxes. The 25 new jobs could expand to as many as 34 new jobs by the end of the second year. Further in order for the Township to consider the tax abatement the Board must also approve an agreement that sets forth the terms between the company and the Township.

Board members made the following comments: Trustee Hart inquired if this project has been sped up due to the cost of oil and does Ricardo work with Visteon. The applicant stated yes, Ricardo has seen a significant increase in business due to the cost of fuel and Ricardo works collaboratively with Visteon on projects. Trustee Clair stated the type of technology being brought into this region is an exceptional opportunity for the region and will provide additional tax base to the Township. Also, local businesses see an increase in business when these developments come to the Township. Supervisor King stated when the State of Michigan grants a tax incentive to a company there is a requirement the local government must also grant the facilities exemption certificate or the company would loss the state tax incentive.

Residents made the following comments. A resident inquired about the amount of skilled and unskilled jobs; does the Township follow up to see if the number of jobs are met; does the Township always give the maximum amount years for the tax abatement; he would like to see fewer years granted for the tax abatement; and questioned where the employees would come from. Supervisor King stated the 25 jobs are all skilled jobs and the Supervisor’s Office verifies every year that commitments made in the tax abatement agreement and the application are being met; (Ricardo is in compliance with their yearly reporting requirements to the Township on their current tax abatements); the Township has a Tax Abatement Guidelines Policy to evaluate each company application and the Township has granted between 4 to 12 year abatements. Trustee Clair stated by the Township following the Tax Abatement Guidelines Policy it keeps the process fair to all applicants. Supervisor King stated some communities have been granting 12 year tax abatements regardless of the amount of investment. The Ricardo representative stated with a 14.6 million investment Ricardo will lose approximately 2 million dollars a year and anticipates to break even in 5 to 7 years. Ricardo’s recruitment process has recently changed to include 14 co-op students from local universities and some of the co-op students will go on to full internships which could lead to full employment with Ricardo. He further stated it is more cost effective to hire local employees rather than hire employees from abroad. Also since the Euro is worth more than the dollar it is the right time to invest here. Trustee Rochowiak stated it is a win win situation for the Township and may lead to additional businesses. A resident inquired if tax abatements to companies increase resident tax bills. Supervisor King reviewed the tax abatement process and stated no, resident tax bills will not increase due to tax abatements granted to companies.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Clair moved, Payne seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Payne moved, Rochowiak seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on the special assessment roll for the purpose of assessing the cost of the annual maintenance and operation of DTE supplied and operated street lights in the Homestead Subdivision Phases III, IV and V. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Director Kelley for an explanation. Director Kelley stated the purpose of this public hearing is to receive comments and questions regarding spreading of the assessment roll for the purpose of installing and maintaining street lights through the DTE Energy Company program in the Homestead Subdivision Phases III, IV, and V. The Homestead Subdivision is located north of Ecorse Road. This is the second part of the two step process and at the July 1, 2008 Board of Trustees Meeting the Board approved the Special Assessment District. Upon approval of the Special Assessment Roll tonight the Township will collect the special assessment for street lighting via the property tax bill. The initial annual cost of \$8,951.39 is to be spread among the 170 single-family residential homes in Phases III, IV and V with an annual cost of \$52.66 per lot per year, noting the annual cost is subject to change each year depending on the DTE Energy annual charge. Supervisor King stated Director Kelley provided the list of the 170 parcel owners to be assessed. Trustee Jahr stated the homeowner owner’s association is paying the initial capital outlay which normally is paid by the developer. Trustee Hart inquired if the homeowner’s association met to review the street lighting plan and agreement. Director Kelley stated yes and the homeowner’s president is present tonight.

There were no comments from Board members or the audience.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Jahr moved, Budd seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

**MINUTES:** Jahr moved, Clair seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of July 14, 2008 as presented. Carried.

Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2008 as presented. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2008 as presented. Carried.

Payne moved, Clair seconded to approve the Closed Session Minutes of July 23, 2008 as presented. Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Van Buren Township is in receipt of a check in the amount of \$214,359 from the Township’s General Liability Insurance carrier the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority. The distribution was due to these contributing factors: the longevity with MMRMA, the loss history with the community and management practices.

Correspondence to Deputy Director Wright, who submitted an application for a mini-grant, from the Detroit Wayne County Mental Health Agency stating Van Buren Township has been chosen to receive a \$2,000 mini-grant. The monies will be used for the Recreation Departments “Get Up and Get Active” program.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Budd moved, Jahr seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-23 for the expansion of Industrial Development District 17. Carried.

Payne moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-24 to authorize an Industrial Exemption for Ricardo, Inc. and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Tax Abatement Agreement. Carried.

Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-25 to approve and spread the special assessment roll for the annual maintenance and operation of DTE supplied and operated street lights in the Homestead Subdivision Phases III, IV and V. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Clair seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-26 in support for Conference of Western Wayne and Downriver Community Conference grant application. Carried.

Budd moved, Rochowiak seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-27 toward a possible Downriver Sewer System Utility Authority evaluation. Carried.

Clair moved, Budd seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-28 to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the South Huron Valley Utility Authority (SHVUA), designating the City of Romulus as a non-constituent municipality, thereby removing them as a member community and changing their status to a customer community. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to appoint DPW Director Todd Knepper as the Township’s alternate to the Downriver Sewer System Joint Management Committee. Carried.

Clair moved, Hart seconded to approve the Treasurer’s request to extend without penalty the collection of the 2008 Summer Property Taxes through Tuesday, September 30, 2008. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-29 for the Wayne County Permit for public improvements to Taco Bell Restaurant 10640 Belleville Road, Van Buren Township, to approve the Storm Water Maintenance Agreement between Van Buren Township and Taco Bell of America, and to authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute all requisite documents; to adopt Resolution 2008-30 for the Wayne County Permit for public improvements to JP Morgan Chase Bank, 9000 Haggerty Road, Van Buren Township, to approve the Storm Water Maintenance Agreement between Van Buren Township and JP Morgan Chase Bank, and to authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute all requisite documents; to adopt Resolution 2008-31 for the Wayne County Permit for public improvements to Mount Cavalry Baptist Church, 42682 Ecorse Road, Van Buren Township, to approve the Storm Water Maintenance Agreement between Van Buren Township and Mount Cavalry Baptist Church, and to authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute all requisite documents; to adopt Resolution 2008-32 for the Wayne County Permit for public improvements to Culver’s Restaurant, 11001 Belleville Road, Van Buren Township, to approve the Storm Water Maintenance Agreement between Van Buren Township and Culver’s Restaurant, and to authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute all requisite documents; to adopt Resolution 2008-33 for the Wayne County Permit for public improvements to Power Center Church International, 16650 Sumpter Road, Van Buren Township, to approve the Storm Water Maintenance Agreement between Van Buren Township and Power Center Church International, and to authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute all requisite documents; and contingent on attorney approval that all documents are in a recordable form and with the understanding that paragraph 5 will be consistent in all documents to show the indemnification will be forever, not just prior to the approval. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-34 to accept jurisdiction transfer of portions of Edison Lake Road in order to facilitate improvements to the French Landing Dam and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Intergovernmental Jurisdiction Agreement between the Charter Township of Van Buren and the Wayne County Department of Public Services. Carried.

Budd moved, Rochowiak seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-35 to approve an amendment to John Hancock agreement to allow a participant loan. Carried.

Hart moved, Clair seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-36 to approve the collaboration of Van Buren Township and Van Buren Public Schools to request grant money of \$25,000 to be used over the next two years for the existing summer camp program. Carried.

Budd moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the contract between Van Buren Township and World Horizons. Carried.

Clair moved, Hart seconded to approve permit applications by AT&T to install telecommunications infrastructure PN 6516254 1034-08-2805 in the northerly portion of the Michigan Avenue MDOT public right of way at the entrance to Wagon Wheel South for a distance of approximately 60 feet in Van Buren Township and the balance in Ypsilanti Township; and PN 6354272 1034-08-2809 across the Belleville Road public right of way at the entrance to Lake Villa Apartments for a distance of approximately 100 feet. Carried.

Hart moved, Payne seconded to approve the 2009 Smart Municipal Contract and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

Payne moved, Hart seconded to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Washtenaw County and Van Buren Township for the use of a general purpose armored vehicle in the case of emergencies and for training; and to authorize the execution of the documents. Carried.

Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters (MAFF) Collective Bargaining Agreement effective July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2011. Carried.

Jahr moved, Clair seconded to approve the first reading of Ordinance 08-19-08 to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance, 06-02-92, as amended, to add Industrial Accessory Outdoor Storage. Carried.

\*(A synopsis of Ordinance 08-19-08 follows the minutes. A complete copy may also be obtained in the Clerk’s Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

Clair moved, Jahr seconded to approve the 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Subrecipient Agreement between Van Buren Township and Wayne County and to authorize the Supervisor to execute all necessary documents. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Payne seconded to accept the attorney’s recommendation regarding pending litigation in case #07-726103-NO. Carried.

**VOUCHER LIST:** Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the August 19, 2008 voucher list as presented. Carried.

**REPORTS:** Supervisor King ordered the June 2008 Budgetary Reports received and filed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** On Thursday, August 21st the 13th annual “Belleville Bridge Walk” will be held beginning at 5:00 p.m. and following the “Belleville Bridge Walk” the



# First step

## Domestic violence, sexual abuse shelter marks 30th anniversary

Meghan Chatham  
Staff Writer

While First Step celebrates a 30 year history of combating domestic violence, staff members have their eyes on the future.

The non-profit organization was originally created in 1978 to address a need in the community identified by a National Organization of Women task force. There was a need for advocacy and short-term shelter for those touched by domestic violence, the study found. Sexual assault services were added to the First Step mission in 1989.

"When First Step started, there were no victim's rights, no resources for families experiencing violence," said Judy Ellis, executive director of First Step. "What's changed in the past 30 years is a greater awareness on the part of the public but it is still difficult for people to grasp the kind of fear families face when they're exposed to domestic violence"

According to Associate Director Theresa Bizoe, there is still plenty of work to be done. One of the next steps for the organization is a major undertaking designed to offer those who require help from the First Step shelter more privacy and help eliminate conflicts that develop in the close confines of the existing shelter.

"We're trying to raise money to build a new shelter," said Bizoe. "It's going to be a whole new concept."

The existing shelter is clean and safe, she said, but in the future First Step hopes to offer those who flee violent homes something a little more welcoming than the determinedly communal living in the existing facility. Space constraints inside the 65-year-old farmhouse, which houses up to 42 people in eight bedrooms, requires that families often need to share a bedchamber despite the emotionally charged situation. Most families stay at the shelter for 30 days although some may stay longer

depending on their situation.

"We're almost always at or near capacity," she said. "In a typical year we serve 7,000-8,000 people a year in our shelter."

Now, First Step hopes to create a larger facility with more single-family rooms as well as an in-house sexual assault nurse examiner clinic that will allow victims of sexual assaults to be treated immediately, privately, and by someone trained in evidence collection.

"We've raised approximately \$2 million so far," said Bizoe. "Our campaign is for \$5.5 million."

However, she said that the organization is heavily dependent on state and federal funding as well as grants and donations to operate and, given the uncertain nature of the economic climate, money is tight. Currently, First Step is looking for community partners and companies willing to contribute to their efforts to aid families threatened by violence. First Step has evolved to meet the needs of the community and the goal of creating a new facility is the latest in a series of changes and improvements.

Originally housed in a handful of rooms at Westland City Hall in 1978 and quickly moved to building adjacent to Nankin Mills in Westland, First Step is now headquartered in Plymouth with services available in 35 communities throughout Wayne County and helps about 10,000 victims each year. The organization also continues to offer in-court victim advocacy, emergency shelter for victims of abuse, and free counseling services for adults and children and to provide legal, court, financial, medical, and housing assistance and a sexual assault response team available to meet with victims 24 hours a day. Anyone in need can reach the 24-hour help line that offers victims a way to explore the options available to them at (734) 459-5900 or by calling, toll free, (888) 453-5900.

"All calls are confidential," said Bizoe. "We're there to support the victim. We do not judge."

On top of everything else they do, First Step also works with the community to raise awareness of the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault, including coalition building, community organizing, violence prevention programs in schools, date rape drug awareness and education, and in-service trainings on domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, and workplace violence.

"Today, First Step works along-

side police officers and the courts working to end violence in our community," said Bizoe. "Still, there are many families we have yet to reach. Each year, we see women killed by their partners. As a community, we need to provide support to victims, hold batterers and rapists accountable, and help young people learn to have healthy, safe relationships. It is a very big challenge."

First Step will host a benefit hon-

oring the 30th anniversary from 6-9 p.m. on Sept. 18 at the Traditions clubhouse, 1315 Waterside Road in Canton. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$150 per couple and include a strolling dinner, entertainment, awards presentations, and a silent auction. The event will include presentations to 30 area residents, including Gail McKnight and Justine Barnes, for their efforts on behalf of the organization. For ticket or sponsorship information, contact Bizoe at (734) 416-1111 or email tbizoefs@gmail.com.

There will also be a anniversary Gathering from 6-8 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 16700 Pennsylvania Road in Southgate. The family-friendly event is designed for anyone who has ever had contact with First Step, including survivors, volunteers, donors, supporters, and staff. For more information, call (734) 955-3850 extension 3807.

Additional information about First Step is available at [www.first-step-mi.org](http://www.first-step-mi.org).

### First Step 'Wish List'

Many of the supplies and services used by First Step to aid victims of violence are donated by area businesses and residents, which helps keeps expenses down. The organization currently has a lengthy wish list of items it needs if residents are interested in helping.

"We encourage everyone to get involved," said Theresa Bizoe, associate director of First Step. "There are many ways you can support this effort. Volunteer for First Step, donate funds or items from First Step's wish list, collect and donate used cell phones or printer cartridges, talk to community leaders about the importance of providing legislation, local policies and resources to respond to violence, support and refer survivors to First Step-tell them you fear for their safety. Get involved."

Among the most highly-sought items on the group wish are:

Cash donations  
Gift certificates or gift cards to local discount supermarkets  
Gas cards  
Phone cards  
Diapers, especially larger sizes

Pull up diapers  
Baby wipes  
Baby lotion  
Plastic baby bottles  
New women's underwear and sports bras in larger sizes  
New clothing for boys, sizes L-XXL  
New children's sweatsuits  
New adult sweatsuits (larger sizes)  
New shoes, socks, slippers  
New XL t-shirts  
New women's nightwear  
Paper products including paper towels, facial tissue, toilet paper, and paper plates  
Coffee and tea  
Non-perishable food  
Personal hygiene items, including deodorant, hand soap with pump, full size toothpaste and lotion, tampons and menstrual pads, and hair brushes  
Children's craft supplies  
Office supplies including legal pads, copier paper, letter sized file folders with tabs, and new Windows 2000 computers and flat-screen monitors

For a complete list of items collected by First Step, visit their web site at [www.firststep-mi.org](http://www.firststep-mi.org) or call (734) 416-1111. First Step is not able to accept home-canned food, hotel-sized toiletries, or used clothing, toys, baby items, or stuffed animals.

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EXCEPT ADULT EVE. \$7.50

Free drink refills & 25¢ corn refills  
SHOWTIMES 8/29 - 9/4  
⊛ **DISASTER MOVIE** (PG-13) 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:35  
⊛ **BABYLON A.D.** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:10  
⊛ **DEATH RACE** (R) 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:55  
**THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW** (PG-13) 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:40  
**FLY ME TO THE MOON 3D** (G) 11:05, 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05  
**STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS** (PG) 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:00  
**MIRRORED** (R) 9:45  
**TROPIC THUNDER** (R) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:50  
**THE DARK KNIGHT** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:35, 6:40, 9:40

**COUPON**  
**FREE**  
**20¢ DRINK**  
with \$2.75 purchase of 48oz. bag of battery popcorn

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HALL 46425 TYLER ROAD

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing in conjunction with the Regular Board meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI 48111 to consider the request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate in existing Industrial Development District #10 pursuant to Act 198, Michigan Public Acts of 1974, as amended for **Die-Namic, Inc., 7565 Haggerty Road, Van Buren Township**, Wayne County, Michigan. Following is the described parcel:

V125-83-046-99-0002-000

12L1A2 PT OF NW 1/4 SEC 12 T3S R8E BEG S 1D 45M W 275.59 FT AND S 86D 46M 20SEC E 60.02 FT FROM NW COR SEC 12. TH S 86D 46M 20SEC E 537.02 FT. TH S 4D 39M 43SEC W 146.67 FT. TH S 41D 34M 37SEC E 354.06 FT. TH N 86D 11M W 772.86 FT. TH N 1D 45M E 390.02 FT POB 5.48 ACRES

Written comments may be forwarded to the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. The exact legal descriptions are available for public review at the township offices during regular business hours. If you have any questions regarding the Public Hearing, please contact me at 734-699-8909 during regular business hours.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC  
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: August 21, 2008  
August 28, 2008

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP HALL 46425 TYLER ROAD

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing in conjunction with the Regular Board meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI 48111 to consider the request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate in existing Industrial Development District #7 pursuant to Act 198, Michigan Public Acts of 1974, as amended for **The Envelope Printery, 8979 Samuel Barton Drive, Van Buren Township**, Wayne County, Michigan. Following is the described parcel:

V125-83-047-99-0003-707

12S2A1B2A X1A2A PT OF THE SW 1/4 OF SEC 12 T3S R8E BEG N89DEG 45M 57S E 862.40FT AND S02DEG 27M 47S E 1029.60FT AND S03DEG 08M 40S E 268.82FT FROM THE W 1/4 COR SEC 12 TH N89DEG 45M 57S E 576.54FT TH ALONG A CURVE CONC TO THE NE RADIUS 4039.72FT CHD S14DEG 53M 10S E 401.02FT TH S88DEG 28M 00S W 551.39FT TH N00DEG 30M 30S W 81.00FT TH S88DEG 28M 00S W 110.0FT TH N03DEG 08M 40S W 322.39FT TO THE POB 5.38 AC

Written comments may be forwarded to the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111. The exact legal descriptions are available for public review at the township offices during regular business hours. If you have any questions regarding the Public Hearing, please contact me at 734-699-8909 during regular business hours.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC  
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: August 21, 2008  
August 28, 2008

## NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH



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35351 Beverly Road (Wayne & Beverly) Romulus • (734) 844.9423

[www.newlifecommunitychurch4u.com](http://www.newlifecommunitychurch4u.com)

Continued from page 7

"Taste of Belleville" will take place in Doane's Landing Park in the City of Belleville.

On Thursday, August 28th the Wayne County Department of Public Health is hosting from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. a Health and Safety Funfest for more information call 734-727-7000.

Township Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2008 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday and the next Work Study Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. with the Board Meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m.

Deputy Director Wright announced on Friday, August 22nd the last of the family concert series at Van Buren Park will take place with the showing of the movie "High School Musical Two". For more information contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** A resident thanked the voters for voting in the Primary Election.

**CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Payne moved, Rochowiak seconded to adjourn at 10:10 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC  
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King  
Supervisor

Publish: August 28, 2008



# SPORTS

## Belleville looks to improve on winless '07

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

There's something happening in Belleville and whatever it is, it's taking place on the football field and being kept quiet.

It's no secret that the Tigers are practicing for the 2008 season but little is known about the transformation the young squad is undergoing, except by those caught in the middle of it all.

And they're keeping it to themselves.

"We changed up everything," said Kaare Cigan, a returning senior tight end and outside linebacker. "We still have some of the old stuff but for the most part we're a whole different team. I don't really want to say much more than that."

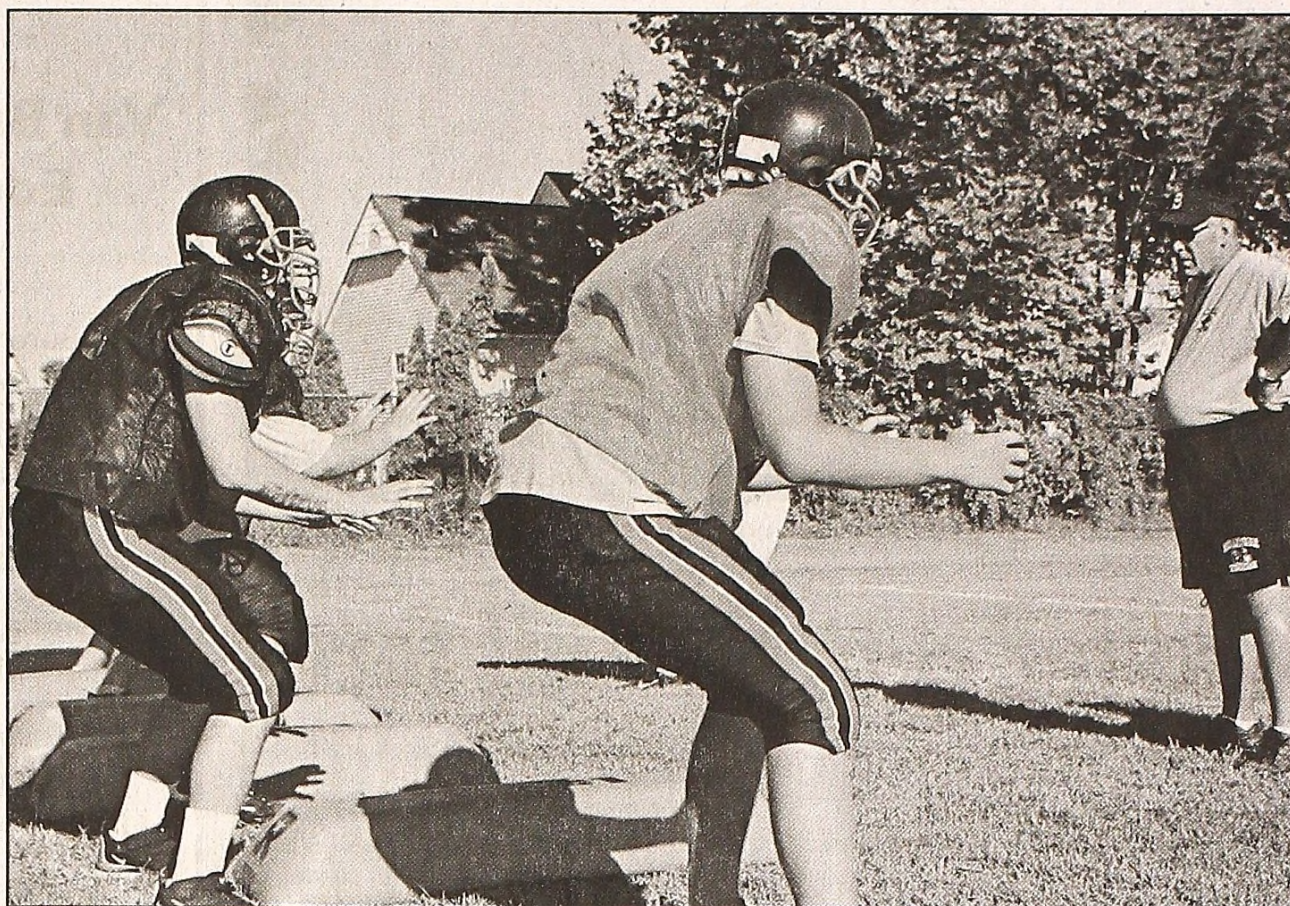
While most teams get a complete makeover when a new coach comes aboard, Belleville's offense and defense were stripped to the bones and is now

in the rebuilding process under the direction of long-time coach Bob LaPointe.

The complete overhaul was necessary after the Tigers finished 0-9 last year and 2-6 in 2006, according to LaPointe. There's also a different mindset this year, he said.

"I think our kids have a good attitude this year," Lapointe said. "Last year was last year and that doesn't count for much and we're looking forward. These kids have really taken to (the new system). We're getting a lot done and I'm really happy so far with what we've been able to accomplish in a short period."

The only problem LaPointe and the Tigers face is experience, or the lack there of. Belleville only has 18 seniors on the team and only seven of those had playing time as juniors in '07. There are only two players back on the offensive line. The same story goes for the defense that only had



Belleville Coach Bob LaPointe (right) gives his linemen a workout during the first week of practice.

three experienced players returning—and two of them switched positions.

"We're green," LaPointe said. "We're young in a lot of positions.

For a lot of these kids it will be their first time playing but we have seen some good things so far. Our kids are working hard and I think we will be pretty good."

The offense will rely on returning players like Cigan and junior fullback Antonio LaBoda, who

See **Tigers**, page 11



Plymouth Coach Mike Sawchuk (right) has his captains (left) and the rest of the team hungry to make it back to the playoffs this season. Plymouth hosts Salem at 7 p.m. today.

## Feeding time Plymouth Wildcats hungry for playoffs

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

About mid way through their 2007 football campaign the Wildcats proved that they had something special going at Plymouth High School.

Whatever it was, it carried them into the playoffs where they faced Livonia Stevenson in the first round.

"We felt like about half the way through the season we finally gelled," said Plymouth Coach Mike Sawchuk. "We had a brand new offense and the linemen finally got going and knowing what to do. And we started to believe in ourselves and love each other a little bit."

Although the 'Cats didn't win—they fell to the eventual state runner up—it marked one of Plymouth's finest seasons, best showings in the post season and, most of all, a wide-angle view of what's to come.

"The motto for this year is 'The Next Level' because we want to take it to that next level," Sawchuk said. "We don't even want to think about rebuilding. We want to reload."

With 32 returning varsity players—27 of them seniors and 15 of them starters—reloading shouldn't be that difficult. Speed will be the name of the game for Plymouth this year with key returners in skill positions.

The offense will be explosive with seniors Ronnie Goble, Matt Skubik, Terrance Guthridge leading the way.

Goble is at tight end and moved from defensive end to linebacker this year when on defense. Goble is by far one of the best athletes on the team with schools like Michigan State, Vanderbilt, Northwestern and MAC schools looking to recruit him.

"He's just a stud," Sawchuk said. "He's a great student; has great parents; is a 320-pound power cleaner; and he can run."

Goble has a good outlook on the 2008 season.

"I'm pretty excited about this year's team," he said. "We've lost some players but a lot of juniors played at skill position last year. We definitely expect to make the playoffs. We have never made it past the first

round so far, so we're all expecting to win and make a big splash this year with maybe two or three wins in the playoffs."

A beefed-up Skubik is ready to lead the offense at quarterback and feels that last year's experience is invaluable to this year's squad.

"I think we were a little inexperienced last year but we have all of our impact players back and I think we will be able to step it up," Skubik said. "We got our feet wet last year and made it to the playoffs and we almost pulled out the upset against number-one ranked Stevenson. It was a tough game but I think our guys learned a lot and got experience and we're trying to carry that over to this year."

Other than Goble, Skubik has Alex Minch, Connor McKinney and Zach Hamed to fire shots to. After showing flashes of brilliance last year, the speedy Guthridge shores up the backfield. Talented junior Thomas Whitlow will run back-up duties behind Guthridge.

Sawchuk has his concerns about the offensive line where there is only one returning starter, junior Jordon Birman. The defense is in a similar situation with just Darrell Cohn and Joshua Kruger.

"We do have a lot of juniors that are vying for offensive and defensive line positions that are some of our strongest and most athletic kids," Sawchuk said. "That's where it is kind of scary, I guess. Our skill kids and our linebackers and defensive backs are seasoned—they know what to do—but it's going to come down to some of those young kids in the trenches that really have to step up. If they step up we can be pretty good. If they don't it could be a long season."

The linebacker group stays intact, for the most part.

All-Leaguer Connor Martin leads the troop with Goble, Travis Mewton and junior Jamie Emminger.

"My linebacking corps has the potential to be the best that I've ever had here," Sawchuk said.

The entire secondary is back, too, with Mike Rose, Matt Rosochacki and Kelly Waite. Guthridge will also play some cornerback and strong safety when not scampering for touchdowns. Waite could also see time at wide receiver, according to Sawchuk.

See **Cats**, page 11

## Northville kickers set sights on finals

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

At the end of the last couple of seasons, Northville soccer coach Henry Klimes hemmed and hawed about whether or not he would return for the following season.

Something always brought him back and this year is no different.

He's coached high school soccer for 20 years—18 of them at Northville—and is very successful at what he does. He led the Mustangs to a district championship and the team's first regional crown last year.

"The kids always bring me back," he said. "I love coaching. Northville has been very good to me. The last couple have been really enjoyable because we've really seen how well we've improved. So that's what's drawing me back."

Klimes labeled his Mustangs the "Cardiac Kids" after they beat nemesis Stevenson, 2-1, in overtime to win a the district championship and defeated Dearborn, 2-1, in double overtime in the regional semifinal. They tripped up Saline, 4-0 to win the region. Northville lost to eventual state champion East Kentwood in the state semifinal.

"We had a great run to beat Stevenson and Dearborn in those

miracle games," Klimes said. "We played a great East Kentwood team that I think that day definitely deserved to win and go on to be the state champs. That just gave us fire to get back there."

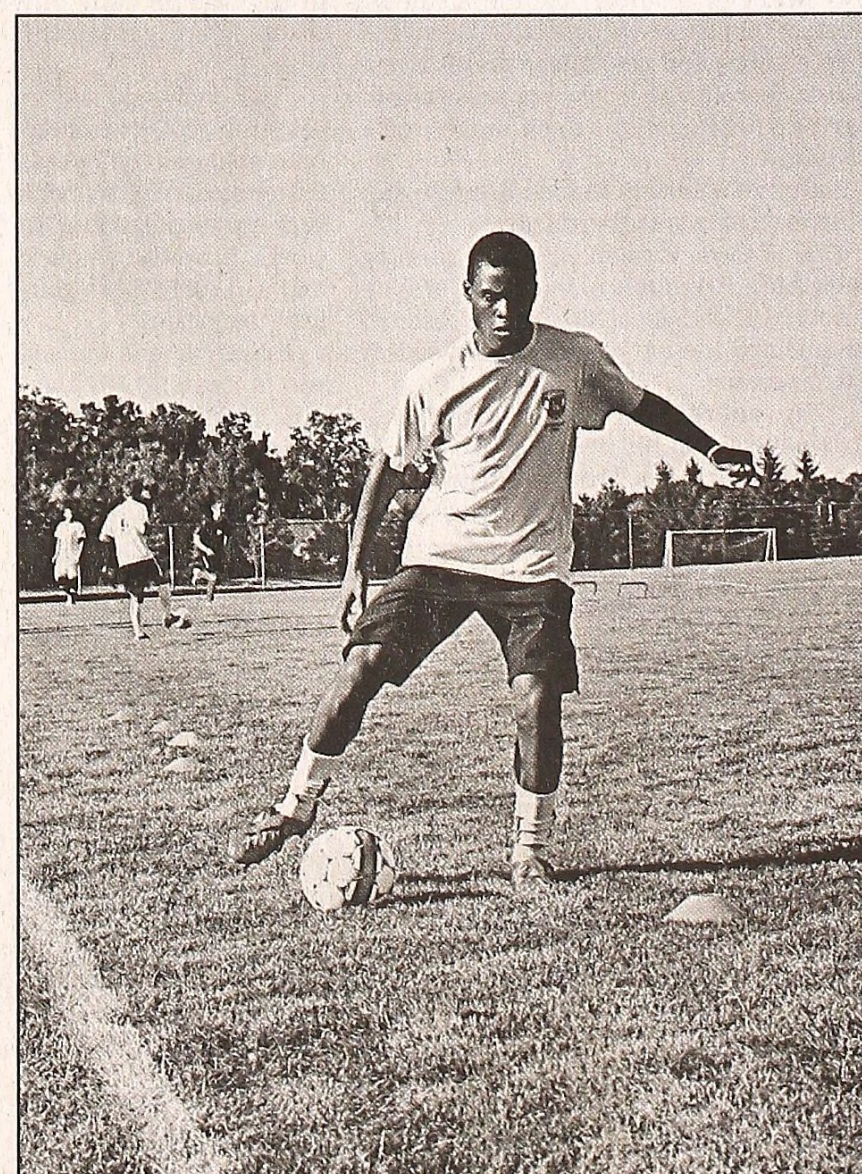
Klimes will have plenty of experience on his roster to get back there. He has 15 players returning—13 of them are seniors.

"For those returning it's important for them to remember and learn from what occurred last year," Klimes said. "Now they have nine new buddies on the team and somehow we have to create that same chemistry and get back there. We can't say that just because we made it there last year that we deserve to be there again. But I think the experience of getting that far is going to go a long ways."

The mid field took a hit with the graduation of Jeff Cheslik and Masato Morioka but is sure to look sharp with returning senior stars Latif Alashe; Nathan Hrivnak, who scored one of the team's early goals against East Kentwood; John Hatzis; Matt Hagan; John Donikian; and Dan Courtney.

"I'm excited for this year," Alashe said. "This is my senior year and we've been working for this the

See **Mustangs**, page 11



Northville senior Latif Alashe works out during practice last week. He hopes the team can make it to the state final this year.





Inkster linemen run through drills in the last day of football camp last week before preparing for the season opener at Zeeland West at 7 p.m. today.

## Inkster returns full force

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

Inkster football coach and athletic director Greg Carter is trying not to think about last season.

His Vikings dominated every team they played last year. Inkster was one game away from a perfect season and was preparing for a strong run in the post season with its sights set on Ford Field.

What's not to like?

Everything was on track and the Vikings looked destined to be crowned state champs. That was until Carter received a phone call from the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), notifying Carter that he must forfeit his eight wins for allegedly playing an ineligible player—one that was said to be 20 years old.

The player's paperwork showed him to be overage but it was due to a clerical error made halfway around the world. Carter proved the allegations wrong but it was too late. The next day Inkster walked onto the field for their final game as the best winless team in the state and missed the playoffs with a revised 1-8 record.

That still looms heavy on Carter and hangs over Inkster.

That explains why redemption was heavy in the air last week at the Inkster Viking football practice.

"It really was tough," Carter said of last season. "We've been really careful trying to dot the 'i's' and cross the 't's'. We're being as cautious and thorough as we possibly can after last year. We're trying to use last year as a learning experience."

From a coaching point of view it might be a blessing in disguise.

"I think it was motivation for the coaching staff," he added. "Last year was my 30th year coaching. This kind of reenergized things and has me excited about coaching again. I want to prove that we aren't cheaters and that we are good football coaches. I'm using it as a motivation to really make this team special."

Inkster is a different team this year. Quarterback Aaron Shavers graduated and is now at Akorn University. Renty Rollins, Derrick Coker, Josh Howard, Javier Reed and Clay Burley are just a few of the impact players that left the team to graduation this year.

The off-season has been good to Inkster. With academic courses like the Academy program that allows students to take college level courses and get college credit for it, transfer enrollment is way up, according to Carter. Inkster might even move up to Division 3.

Influx of transfers helped bring in students that also want to be athletes.

One of those is talented senior running back Alan Freeman formerly of Wayne Memorial High School. Freeman is fast and athletic and the top running back heading into the season.

"The energy here is so different," Freeman said of his new school. "People here just want to win. I'm most excited about Ford Field—the whole team is excited about

that. We have to get through week one first—one game at a time."

"Alan is doing really well," Carter said of the January transfer. "He's doing well academically and he fits in well with our team. He's a super player and really good kid."

Senior wide receivers Eric Williams and Antwain Calloway also transferred from Wayne.

Inkster also has a talented quarterback in Devin Gardner who transferred from Uof D last November. As a junior he's already turned the heads at several Big Ten schools, according to Carter. He's big at 6-foot-4 and can throw the ball. His teammate Cameron Gordon, a wide receiver, came to Inkster, too.

Senior Jaisaun Holt, from Melvindale, is battling Gardner for the starting position.

"They have all been cleared by the state to play," Carter said. "We're not taking any chances. If there is a question about anything I send the paperwork to the state and let them make the decision."

Retuning players include linebacker Darnell Morrison, cornerback Desean McGhee, Denzel Richmond at fullback and linebacker and Andre Willis anchors the offensive line at center and will play at line-backer.

The offensive line is the biggest question mark with only a few returning players, said Carter.

"If we're lucky enough to get some wins early and gain some momentum and our defense plays well enough to give our offense time to gel we're going to be a special team," Carter said. "We're going to change the defense a little bit. We feel we have to be a little more active on defense. Offensively we're going to try and be about the same. It's going to be hard because we have some really good skill guys."

Inkster outscored two-time Division 1 state champion Macomb Dakota in a scrimmage last week without a solid offensive lineup.

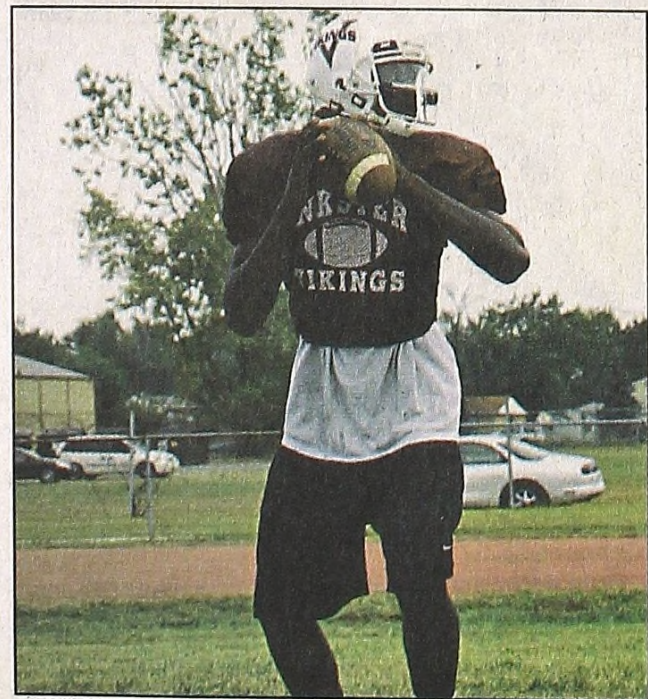
"We were a little shaky but we held our own," Carter said. "The defense looked pretty good."

Inkster's schedule is pretty tough with only three home games this year.

"Our challenge is if we get this together before we take some early losses," Carter said. "Our schedule is pretty tough the first two weeks. If we can get lucky and win early we're going to be tough late."

Inkster opens the season at Zeeland West at 7 p.m. today. The Vikings' home opener is against Highland Park at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Junior Devin Gardner is the likely starter a quarterback for the Vikings this year. The talented slinger had already caught the attention of some Big Ten football schools.



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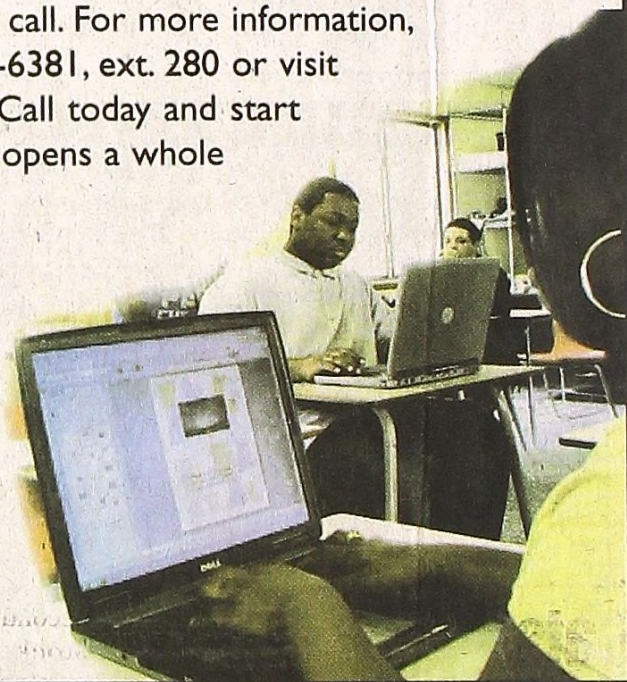
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